

ARIZONA COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL (AZ CCC)
RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 22, 2007
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
TGen Board Room

In Attendance

Barbara Kavanagh, Tim Flood, Mike Berens, Sharon Jaycox, Jessica Hahn, Joan Conner Bald, Veronica Vensor, Tim Flood

Role Call

Committee members introduced themselves and the two new members; Jessica Hahn, Epidemiologist for ADHS and Joan Conner Bald, President of the Lymphoma Research Foundation provided information regarding their organizations and roles.

Tissue Banking Assessment

Tim Flood presented an update on an initiative at the State dealing with the development of a state-wide specimen bio-bank.

The committee members concurred that a major concern was the inability to access tissue.

Mike Berens suggested an action item by way of a demonstration. The suggestion was to develop a proposal for a pilot project involving a major hospital and a facility in one or two rural communities. The purpose of the project would be to help determine the common systems that can be applied/developed for the major hospitals and other communities.

Tim Flood suggested an approach to the issue would be to develop a system for how this will work. It would be necessary to determine who would be involved for instance; patients, surgeons, lawyers... and barriers that needed to be removed.

A committee member suggested that the International Genomics Consortium be used as an example to see if what IGC is doing on a national level can be applied on a state level.

Joan Conner Bald asked if other states had an established Bio-specimen Repository. Mike Berens indicated there were successful systems in Florida, Michigan, and at MD Anderson in Texas. It was also noted, that the Flinn Foundation was working on developing a Repository here in Arizona. Tim Flood suggested AZCCCP contact Flinn (Saundra Johnson 602-744-6800) and let them know AZCCCP exists as well as ask them what AZCCCP can do to help support their initiative. Sharon Jaycox said she will look into this and a follow-up will be given at the next meeting.

Patient Advocacy

Barbara Kavanagh gave a brief update on the Patient Advocacy Program. AzMN submitted a grant to develop a program to bring patients together as an attempt to develop awareness.

Mike Berens expressed the importance of patient advocates and “the tissue issue”.

Educational Conference

A reminder was given about the upcoming “Living with Myeloma” conference on March 31, 2007 in Tucson.

Miscellaneous

The committee discussed the CTSA- Clinical and Translational Science Award. The U of A is currently coordinating the RFG with a deadline of October 24, 2007. Mike Berens noted that Arizona needed to develop a strong proposal and if the Arizona Cancer Registry (ACR) was not involved they should be. Veronica Vensor stated she was not aware of the grant. Tim Flood asked how the ACR could help this along and was instructed to contact Leslie Boyer at the U of A. It was also suggested that AZCCCP explore how they can be used to benefit the application. Mike Beren recommended a Myeloma or Lymphoma pilot Clinical Study whereby the CTSA would be necessary in order to increase access to the patients needed for clinical studies.

Veronica Vensor gave a status on the statewide annual report from the ACR. The report is in a draft version and contains data on cancers diagnosed for 2002-2004. The report shows counts and rates of all cancer sites, with expanded information about female breast, lung, colorectal, prostate, and melanoma of skin. The report should be released in about 2 months.

Next Meeting

To be Determined.